

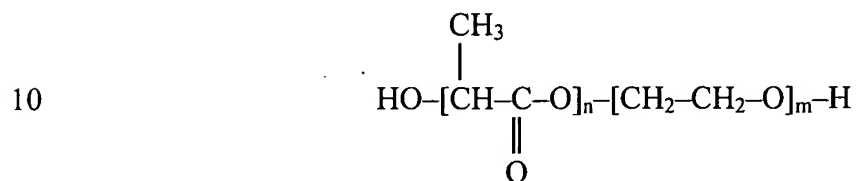
CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A medical article comprising an implantable substrate having a coating, the coating including a polymer comprising a derivative of poly(lactic acid), or a block-copolymer having at least one moiety derived from poly(lactic acid).
2. The medical article of Claim 1, wherein the medical article is a stent.
3. The medical article of Claim 1, wherein poly(lactic acid) includes poly(D-lactic acid), poly(L-lactic acid), or poly(D,L-lactic acid).
4. The medical article of Claim 1, wherein the derivative of poly(lactic acid) is hydrolyzed poly(lactic acid) or carboxylated poly(lactic acid).
5. The medical article of Claim 1, wherein the block-copolymer includes a diblock-copolymer, a triblock-copolymer, or mixtures thereof.
6. The medical article of Claim 5, wherein the diblock-copolymer and triblock-copolymer include at least one biocompatible moiety.
7. The medical article of Claim 6, wherein the biocompatible moiety is poly(ethylene glycol).
8. The medical article of Claim 6, wherein the biocompatible moiety is selected from a group consisting of poly(ethylene oxide), poly(propylene glycol), poly(tetramethylene glycol), poly(ethylene oxide-co-propylene oxide), ϵ -caprolactone, β -butyrolactone, δ -valerolactone, glycolide, poly(N-vinyl pyrrolidone), poly(acrylamide methyl propane sulfonic

acid) and salts thereof, poly(styrene sulfonate), sulfonated dextran, polyphosphazenes, poly(orthoesters), poly(tyrosine carbonate), hyaluronic acid or derivatives thereof, copolymers of poly(ethylene glycol) with hyaluronic acid or derivatives thereof, heparin, copolymers of polyethylene glycol with heparin, a graft copolymer of poly(L-lysine) and poly(ethylene glycol).

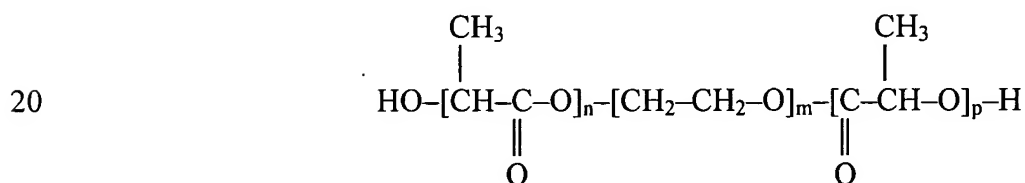
9. The medical article of Claim 5, wherein the diblock-copolymer is a copolymer having a formula



wherein each of “n” and “m” is an integer.

10. The medical article of Claim 9, wherein “n” has a value between about 21 and about 278, and “m” has a value between about 11 and about 682.

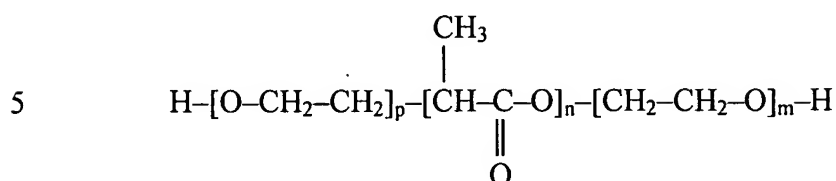
11. The medical article of Claim 5, wherein the triblock-copolymer is a copolymer having a formula



wherein each of “n,” “m,” and “p” is an integer.

12. The medical article of Claim 11, wherein “n” has a value between about 21 and about 278, and “m” has a value between about 11 and about 682, and “p” has a value between about 21 and about 278.

13. The medical article of Claim 5, wherein the triblock-copolymer is a copolymer having a formula



wherein each of “n,” “m,” and “p” is an integer.

14. The medical article of Claim 13, wherein “n” has a value between about 21 and about 278, “m” has a value between about 11 and about 682, and “p” has a value between about 11 and about 682.

15. The medical article of Claim 5, wherein the diblock-copolymers and triblock-copolymers are hydrolyzed block-copolymers of poly(lactic acid) and poly(ethylene glycol).

16. The medical article of Claim 1, wherein the coating further includes a biologically absorbable polymer.

17. The medical article of Claim 16, wherein the biologically absorbable polymer is selected from a group consisting of poly(hydroxybutyrate), poly(hydroxyvalerate), poly(hydroxybutyrate-co-valerate), poly(caprolactone), poly(lactide-co-glycolide), poly(ethylene-glycol)-block-poly(butylene terephthalate), poly(ethylene-glycol)-block-poly(butylene terephthalate)-block-poly(ethylene-glycol), poly(butylene terephthalate)-block-poly(ethylene-glycol)-block-poly(butylene terephthalate), poly(ethylene-glycol)-block-poly(caprolactone), poly(ethylene-glycol)-block-poly(caprolactone)-block-poly(ethylene-glycol), poly(caprolactone)-block-poly(ethylene-glycol)-block-poly(caprolactone), and blends thereof.

18. The medical article of Claim 1, additionally comprising a biologically active agent incorporated into the coating.

19. A method for fabricating a medical article, the method including depositing a coating on at least a portion of an implantable substrate, the coating including a polymer
5 comprising a derivative of poly(lactic acid), or a block-copolymer having at least one moiety derived from poly(lactic acid)

20. The method of Claim 19, wherein the medical article is a stent.

21. The method of Claim 19, wherein poly(lactic acid) includes poly(D-lactic acid), poly(L-lactic acid), or poly(D,L-lactic acid).

10 22. The method of Claim 19, further including hydrolyzing or carboxylating poly(lactic acid) to obtain the derivative of poly(lactic acid).

23. The method of Claim 19, wherein the block-copolymer includes a diblock-copolymer, a triblock-copolymer, or mixtures thereof.

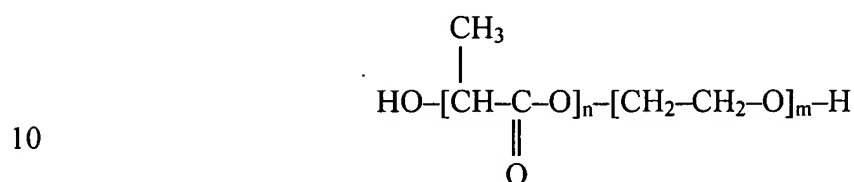
15 24. The method of Claim 23, wherein the diblock-copolymer and triblock-copolymer include at least one biocompatible moiety.

25. The method of Claim 24, wherein the biocompatible moiety is poly(ethylene glycol).

26. The method of Claim 24, wherein the biocompatible moiety is selected from a group consisting of poly(ethylene oxide), poly(propylene glycol), poly(tetramethylene glycol),
20 poly(ethylene oxide-co-propylene oxide), ϵ -caprolactone, β -butyrolactone, δ -valerolactone, glycolide, poly(N-vinyl pyrrolidone), poly(acrylamide methyl propane sulfonic acid) and salts

thereof, poly(styrene sulfonate), sulfonated dextran, polyphosphazenes, poly(orthoesters), poly(tyrosine carbonate), hyaluronic acid or derivatives thereof, copolymers of poly(ethylene glycol) with hyaluronic acid or derivatives thereof, heparin, copolymers of polyethylene glycol with heparin, a graft copolymer of poly(L-lysine) and poly(ethylene glycol).

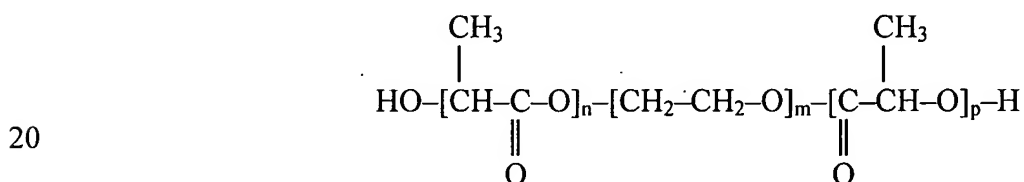
5 27. The method of Claim 23, wherein the diblock-copolymer is a copolymer
 having a formula



wherein each of “n” and “m” is an integer.

28. The method of Claim 27, wherein “n” has a value between about 21 and about 278, and “m” has a value between about 11 and about 682.

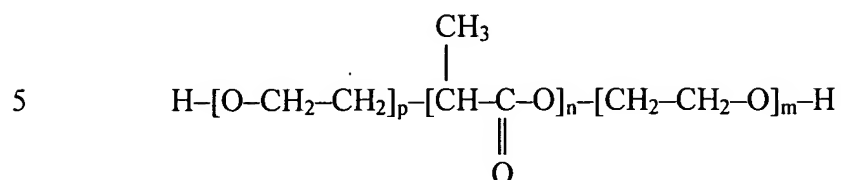
15 29. The method of Claim 23, wherein the triblock-copolymer is a copolymer
 having a formula



wherein each of “n,” “m,” and “p” is an integer.

30. The method of Claim 29, wherein “n” has a value between about 21 and about 278, and “m” has a value between about 11 and about 682, and “p” has a value between about 21 and about 278.

31. The method of Claim 23, wherein the triblock-copolymer is a copolymer having a formula



wherein each of “n,” “m,” and “p” is an integer.

32. The method of Claim 31, wherein “n” has a value between about 21 and about 278, “m” has a value between about 11 and about 682, and “p” has a value between about 11 and about 682.

33. The method of Claim 23, further including hydrolyzing the diblock-copolymers and triblock-copolymers to obtain hydrolyzed block-copolymers of poly(lactic acid) and poly(ethylene glycol), and incorporating the hydrolyzed block-copolymers of poly(lactic acid) and poly(ethylene glycol) into the coating.

34. The method of Claim 19, further including incorporating a biologically absorbable polymer.

35. The method of Claim 34, wherein the biologically absorbable polymer is selected from a group consisting of poly(hydroxybutyrate), poly(hydroxyvalerate), poly(hydroxybutyrate-co-valerate), poly(caprolactone), poly(lactide-co-glycolide), poly(ethylene-glycol)-block-poly(butylene-terephthalate), poly(ethylene-glycol)-block-poly(butylene terephthalate)-block-poly(ethylene-glycol), poly(butylene-terephthalate)-block-poly(ethylene-glycol)-block-poly(butylene-terephthalate), poly(ethylene-glycol)-block-poly(caprolactone), poly(ethylene-glycol)-block-poly(caprolactone)-block-poly(ethylene-

glycol), poly(caprolactone)-block-poly(ethylene-glycol)-block-poly(caprolactone), and blends thereof.

36. The method of Claim 19, additionally comprising incorporating a biologically active agent into the coating.